

George Graham to Andrew Jackson, February 1, 1817, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

SECRETARY GRAHAM TO JACKSON.1

1 The letter here given shows that Parton's statement (*Jackson*, II. 372) is inaccurate in that it omits any reference to a protest to the War Department before the letter of Mar. 4 to Monroe. Graham's letter throws a new light on the controversy. The reference is to Maj. Stephen H. Long, serving under Jackson and ordered out of his department without notice to Jackson.

Department of War, February 1, 1817.

Sir, I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th ultimo, which seems to have been founded on an erroneous impression of the instructions which had been given to major Long; extracts from which are enclosed. When major Long reported himself to this department in pursuance of those instructions, he applied for leave to go to New York for the purpose of arranging some private business—this permission was granted on his representation, that his report and topographical plans could be executed by him with greater facility, in consequence of the instruments which he had there, and Which he could not readily procure at this place. He was, also, verbally instructed to act temporarily, if necessary, as topographical Engineer to the Board of Fortifications; provided, major Roberdeau, Who had been assigned to that duty, should be prevented from joining the board. It is not understood, however, that he has been called on to perform any duties of that kind.

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So soon as major Long has made his report to this department, he will in pursuance of the original intention of the department, be ordered to report himself to you at Nashville. It is distinctly to be understood, that this department at all times exercises the right of assigning officers to the performance of special duties, at its discretion.

I have the honor to be,